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13 JUL 1961

TO: Director of Central Intelligence
 FROM: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
 SUBJECT: Comments on Soviet Air Show

1. The Soviets achieved a major propaganda success from the recent Aviation Day air show. The world press has given the impression of many Soviet "firsts" and tremendous technological progress in aviation.

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In addition to displaying

large numbers of well known operational aircraft, they apparently made an all out effort to show as wide a variety of aircraft as possible by flying some prototype bombers. It is probable that many of these will never be placed in series production. This was also implied by Kozlov in his reply to a question by Ambassador Thompson at a luncheon reception on 10 July, when he asked Thompson if he had noticed how few examples there were of each. Kozlov added that "maybe Khrushchev was right after all" in his earlier statements on the obsolescence of military aircraft. Kozlov apparently considered the showing of new aircraft as largely a display of continuing research.

State Department review completed

SECRET

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